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Mr. Richard Zeckhauser
6 North Circle
Great Neck, New York

Dear Zeckhauser:

Your letter obviously calls for a detailed, thoughtful answer which is, of course, why it has received none at all. The more important a letter to me, the more delayed my reply: that is a simple rule, I'm afraid, to predict my letter-writing behavior, the dynamic implications of which are depressingly obvious. You may indeed find this reply inadequate, as it is, under the circumstances; but you will not have had nearly as long a delay as your letter surely deserves. In fact, it is not a reply at all, but merely a note to say how delighted I am that you are coming to RAND and how much I am looking forward to our discussions. I may not be here immediately upon your arrival; I am leaving within a few minutes for Washington, to spend the rest of June there.

It is extremely gratifying to find that someone has not only read that overblown work but has found it stimulating and thought hard about some of the issues. I am not at all worried about your reservations. I can see at a glance that Schelling and Raiffa have brainwashed you into a sense of guilt about your natural impulses, which I am sure are perfectly sound and healthy; but we will soon clear your head of that New England dogma in the fresh air of Southern California. I shall postpone my comments on your examples until I meet you well away from the insidious influence of Cambridge Svengalis.

Let me draw your attention to a comment on my article by Harry Roberts, and my reply (a copy is attached), in the May issue of the Quarterly Journal of Economics. If I am not here when you arrive, please ask my secretary, Susan Sinek, to give you a copy of my thesis. I am far overdue in editing that for issuance as a RAND Memorandum, something which I must attend to immediately upon my return. I am counting heavily upon benefiting by your criticisms in that process.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Ellsberg
Economics Department

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